

Edubase #Mission 2021

September-2020

Current Affairs

- **Sonu Sood** has been conferred with the prestigious **SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award** by **United Nations Development Programme**.
- **Shekhar Kapoor** has been appointed the **President of Film and Television Institute of India**, Pune. He gained international recognition with the 1994 **Bollywood film Bandit Queen**, based on Mala Sen's biography of infamous Indian bandit and politician Phoolan Devi, which won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi.
- The Bollywood actor who has been **signed by Amazon Inc for its Alexa voice assistant** – **Amitabh Bachchan**.
- **Paresh Rawal** has been appointed the **Chairman of National School of Drama, Delhi**.
- **Shri Jaswant Singh** The former **Army officer, Defence Minister, Finance Minister, External Affairs Minister and Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission** passed away recently.
- **Swami Agnivesh (Vepa Shyam Rao)** the well known **social activist, recipient of Right Livelihood Award (2004) and Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award**, passed away recently.
- **Kesavananda Bharati** the chief pontiff of Edneer Mutt in Kerala and the petitioner in the landmark case (**Kesavananda Bharati vs State of kerala, 1973**) on constitutional amendment i.e. **basic structure doctrine**; passed away recently.
- The Indian Air Force base at which **Rafale aircraft** were formally inducted into the IAF-
Ambala.

- **Kapila Vatsyayan** was Leading scholar of **Indian classical dance, art, architecture,** and art history and Founder of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.
- **Indian musician, playback singer,** music director, actor, dubbing artist, and film producer who worked predominantly in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, and Malayalam films Shri **SP Balasubrahmanyam** passed away recently.
- **Google India** on September 30, 2020 announced the launch of its nationwide campaign **“Make Small Strong”** in order to **help support small businesses and drive demand through customer support.** “Make Small Strong’ campaign is meant to “rally support from the citizens for small businesses.
- **NITI Aayog and Embassy of the Netherlands,** New Delhi have signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) on 28 September 2020 in order to **support the decarbonization and energy transition agenda** to accommodate cleaner and more energy.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has warned of the danger that is being posed by another **virus** that have been **found in China named ‘Cat Que Virus’ (CQV).**
- A **museum on Ganga named- “Ganga Avlokan”** located at the **Chandi Ghat.**
- **The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has released the **“Health in India”** report.
- **World Environmental Health Day** is being observed globally on **26th September.**
- Fourth edition of **India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX)** began in North Arabian Sea.
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxation (CBDT)** has launched the **faceless income tax appeals.**
- **The National Medical Commission (NMC)** has come into existence from September 25, 2020. It has **replaced the Medical Council of India (MCI),** as the country’s apex regulator of medical education and profession. National Medical Commission (NMC)
NMC is an Indian regulatory body having 33 members.

- **The Reserve Bank of India released Cyber Security Vision Framework** under the title 'Technology Vision for Cyber Security' **for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) – 2020-2023.**
- The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a unified portal called 'U-Rise'- Unified Re-imagined Innovation For Student Empowerment.
- The **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has approved to set up ten plastic parks** in the country under the Plastic Park scheme. The Scheme was launched in 2019.
- **Cyanobacteria (cyanobacterial neurotoxins) produces toxins in water.** The toxins **killed more than 300 elephants in Botswana** in the year 2020.
- The aviation company **Airbus launched three concepts for the first zero emission commercial aircraft or the Hydrogen Aircraft.**
- **Ghar Tak Fibre Scheme launched in Bihar**
- **India's first CRISPR test for COVID-19 has been launched by the TATA group.** It has been **named 'Feluda'**, the TATA CRISPER (Clustered Regulatory Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) COVID-19 test.
- The United Nations has named a 18-year-old Indian teenager **Udit Singhal** in the list of **2020 Class of Young leaders for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**
- Lieutenant Governor of **Jammu and Kashmir** Manoj Sinha has launched the **National Generic Document Registration System** for the region. This is an online registration system for transactions in purchase or sale of land.
- The Institute for Management Development (IMD) along with Singapore University have released the **Smart City index.**
- **Brucellosis, also known as Malta fever due to bacterial infection** has recently affected thousands of people in Northwest of China.
- The **World Bank released the annual Human Capital Index.** **India** has ranked **169th** position in the annual Human Capital Index. **India's score: 0.49.**

- The **TATA Group of Companies** recently won the bid to construct a new **Parliament building** for Rs 861.90 crores.
- Every year, on **Prime Minister Modi's birthday** that falls on **September 17, Seva Diwas** is celebrated.
- **US President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and foreign ministers of Bahrain and UAE signed the historic peace agreement Abraham Accord.** It is the first peace deal between Israel and Arabs in 26 years.
- **Yoshihide Suga was elected as the new prime minister of Japan** after Shinzo Abe resigned.
- **Byte Dance a Chinese Company which owns a popular video-sharing app called TikTok in its recent merger deals choose Oracle** a US-based firm.
- The apex telecom regulatory body **TRAI** intended to set up an industry body and recommended a **“light-touch regulatory framework”** for cloud service providers.
- **India's entry to United Nation's Commission on Status of Women**
- **UNICEF** (United Nations International Children Education Fund) appointed **Ayushmann Khurrana** as its celebrity advocate for promoting and supporting its work around ending violence against children.
- For the first time since the end of the cold war in 1990, the whole of Germany resonated with the sound of the emergency siren as an emergency test.
- **Department of Posts launched a scheme called the “Five Star Villages”.** The scheme ensures **universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of India.**
- In order to **keep a check on rumors and fake news information** which spreads like fire in jungle on social media platform, the **government of Bangladesh has launched a special campaign called, “Asol Chini”.**
- **Sri Lanka proposes ban on Cow Slaughter.**

- **Real Mango software** is an **illegal notorious software developed for booking Tatkal ticket over the IRCTC website**. This illegal and commonly banned software makes the complete process of Indian Rail ticket booking at a fly speed.
- Sir **David Attenborough** was conferred with the **prestigious Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019**.
- The third annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum is to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam capital.
- The **very first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is to be held on September 7, 2020**.
- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs launched the fourth edition of Business Reforms Action Plan ranking of states.
- **Vice President Venkaiah Naidu** released the **“State of Young Child in India” report**. The **report was prepared by the Mobile Creches**, a policy advocacy organization. The report measured Health and Nutrition in the country.
- The **Special Frontier Force is also called Establishment 22**. The commandos in the force are drawn from Tibetan refugees who took shelter in India after the Tibetan uprising.
- **India is to host a summit of council of heads of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization)** on November 30, 2020.
- The **Water Heroes contest was launched by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti**. The main aim of the contest is to reach out to people with messages of water conservation and management.
- The **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** released the **Global Innovation Index**. For the first time, **India** has ranked among top 50 countries. It has moved up to **48th rank in 2020**.
- **India and Russia** are to hold bilateral naval exercise **INDRA 2020** in Andaman Sea, close to strategic Strait of Malacca.

- **India's first multi-wavelength satellite "Astrosat"** detected extreme Ultra Violet light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light years away from the earth. **The galaxy is called AUDFs01.**
- **Amnesty International** is a non-governmental organization. Amnesty International was founded in London in **1961**. It has been headquartered in the United Kingdom that is mainly **focused on human rights across the world**. Rights group Amnesty International has halted its operations in India after alleging a "witch-hunt" by the government.
- **Five Public Sector Undertakings will join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action. The five PSUs to join the ISA are Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and GAIL India Limited.**
- **Fridays For Future (FFF)** is a global climate strike movement that started in **August 2018**, when 15-year-old Greta Thunberg began a strike in Sweden.
- **The Lok Sabha has passed the J&K Official Languages Bill, 2020 that seeks to include Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi as the official languages** in the newly-created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. **Earlier, only English and Urdu were the official languages** in the former State.
- **World Bamboo Day: Observed annually on September 18th. Theme for 2020: 'BAMBOO NOW.'**
- **Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit is a global summit of Overseas and Resident Indian scientists and academicians.**
- **An air bubble is essentially a temporary arrangement between two countries to restart commercial flight services** at a time when regular international flights are suspended due to COVID-19.

- **India celebrates Engineer's Day every year on September 15 as a tribute to the greatest Indian Engineer Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya** on his birthday. He was the chief engineer responsible for the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore.
- **Kharai Camel Also known as Swimming Camels. Found only in Gujarat's Bhuj area.**
- **1619 Project is a special initiative of The New York Times Magazine**, launched in 2019 to mark the completion of 400 years since the first enslaved Africans arrived in colonial Virginia's Jamestown in August 1619.
- **India and Japan sign agreement on Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between Forces of both countries.**
- **Narcotics Control Bureau** was constituted by the Government of India in 1986 under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**. It is the apex coordinating agency **under the Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Delhi High Court has asked the Centre to take a call on the issue of bringing Assam Rifles out of the dual control of the Home Ministry (MHA) and the Defence Ministry (MoD). **Assam Rifles which is also referred to as the Sentinels of North East is the oldest paramilitary force of India.**
- The General Assembly of United Nations on 19 December 2019 adopted a resolution to observe the **International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on 07th September every year starting from 2020**. The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) worked with UNEP and the Republic of Korea to advocate for the day in the lead up to the decision.
- **Becoming the first to institutionalize snake handling in the country, the Kerala Forest Department has framed guidelines for rescuing snakes** from human dominated places and releasing them in uninhabited areas.

- **India has launched its own eco-label BEAMS (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) under ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) project.**

BEAMS has been prepared by the Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) under MoEFCC.

- The **Delhi Government launched a mass campaign-10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute against Dengue and other vector borne diseases.**

- **Haiyang-2C: is a new ocean-monitoring satellite launched recently by China.**

- **Important Days in September**

- **International Literacy Day:** 08 September 2020
- **International Day of Democracy:** 15 September 2020
- **International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer:** 16 September 2020
- **International Day of Peace:** 21 September 2020
- **World Tourism Day:** 27 September 2020
- **International Day for Universal Access to Information:** 28 September 2020, designated by UNESCO

- **TIME magazine's 100 most influential people - 2020**

Indians in the list

- PM Shri Narendra Modi in Leaders category
- Ayushmann Khurrana in Artists category
- Bilkis (of Shaheen Bagh fame) in Icons category
- Prof Ravindra Gupta in Pioneers category
- Sundar Pichai in Titans category

- **The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020**

Under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**, the Central Govt could regulate or prohibit the production, supply and distribution of any essential commodity for securing its equitable distribution and availability at fair prices.

Under the **Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020** Central Government may regulate the supply of such foodstuffs, including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds and oils, only under extraordinary circumstances which may include war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity of grave nature.

Further, any action on imposing stock limit shall be based on price rise and an order for regulating stock limit of any agricultural produce may be issued under this Act only if there is

1. hundred per cent increase in the retail price of horticultural produce; or
2. fifty per cent increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural foodstuffs,
3. over the price prevailing immediately preceding twelve months, or average retail price of last five years, whichever is lower.

➤ **Three Labour bill introduced in Loksabha**

The government introduced three Bills in the Lok Sabha to bring reforms in the labour sector. The bill includes **laws on social security, occupational safety and health and industrial relations. The bill subsumes- the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; the Trade Unions Act, 1926; and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.** Labour stands under the **Concurrent List** of the Constitution. So, both Parliament and state legislatures can make laws regulating the labour.

Economy Current Affairs

- **The Reserve Bank of India has introduced a “Positive Pay System” that will come into effect from January 2021.** The system has been launched to make the cheque payment more secure. The system will make mandatory to re-confirm key details of cheques for the payments beyond Rs 50,000.
- **K V Kamath submitted its report** to the Reserve Bank of India. The panel was formed to make recommendations on financial parameters to be considered for one-time restructuring of loans that were affected by COVID-19 pandemic.
- According to the recent National Statistical Office (NSO) data, **India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth contracted by 23.9% in the first (April-June) quarter of 2020.** It is the sharpest contraction since India started reporting quarterly data in 1996.
- The government launched a pan-India real-time market of electricity to enable the buyers and sellers pan-India to meet their energy requirement closer to real time of operation.
- **Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) is for electricity sector.** The move, that will lead to an increase in the participants in the **renewable energy sector.** The initiative will also help in achieving 175 GW renewable energy (RE) target of the country .
- **Reserve Bank of India has revised the Priority Sector Lending norms.** As per the new guidelines, loans up to Rs. 50 Crore for startups in agriculture and MSME sector would be given under Priority Sector. This apart, the lending limit for health infrastructure has also been doubled to Rs. 10 crore .
- The **government have decided to cap export incentives under Merchant Export from India Scheme (MEIS) at ₹2 crore per exporter** on outbound shipments made during September-December, 2020.
- An integrated brand identity – **Vi has been announced by Vodafone and Idea which is pronounced ‘we’.**
- Union Minister for MSME, Shri Nitin Gadkari approved Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission. It is a unique employment generation program proposed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- To build a high-speed 82-km **Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system (RRTS) corridor, India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 500-million-dollar loan.**

- Recently, **Andhra Pradesh** has implemented a new scheme **ReSTART**, which is a **package reform for micro-small-and-medium enterprises (MSMEs) to revive them in post-Covid era.**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have decided to conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under the **Open Market Operation (OMO) for Rs 10,000 crore.**
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on September 10, 2020 that a Digital Payments Index (DPI) will be launched.** The index will **assess and capture the extent of digitalisation of payments effectively.**
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, has launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges (ANIC) initiative.** It will help in boosting research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups.
- **India opened its first exclusive private jet terminal at New Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India excluded six public sector banks from the Second Schedule of RBI Act.** This was done following their merger with other banks. **These six banks are Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), Syndicate Bank, United Bank of India, Corporation Bank, Andhra Bank and Allahabad Bank.** Every bank listed in the schedule II of RBI act is a Scheduled Bank. In order to enter the category, a bank should hold a paid-up capital of Rs 5 lakh (minimum). These banks are eligible for loans from RBI at bank rate.
- **EASE 2.0 Banking Reforms Index**
 - It is a common reform agenda for PSBs.
 - Aim: Institutionalizing clean and smart banking.
 - Launched in: January 2018.
 - PSBs have shown a healthy trajectory in their performance over four quarters since the launch of EASE 2.0 Reforms Agenda.
 - Top Performing Banks: (1) Bank of Baroda, (2) State Bank of India, (3) Oriental Bank of Commerce

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